Engraving by Venturini (1685): cascade of the Organ Fountain (executed by G. L. Bernini in 1661).

scends in tiny waves. The large niche in the back once contained a statue of Hercules.

On the same transversal axis looking right from the Fountain of the Dragons is the Fountain of the Owl. We hardly know anything about when the project was begun, although we do know the name of the person who started it (Giovanni del Duca) and the person who continued work on it when del Duca died c. 1566 (Raffaello Sangallo). In 1568 Ulisse Macciolini completed the stucco statues depicting three fauns. In 1572 Leonardo Sormanno carved eight satyr figures each of which was holding a vase with water flowing out of them, for the niches in the wall bordering the fountain. In the middle is the great niche flanked by two columns decorated with a mosaic design of grapevines and golden apples of the Garden of the Hesperides and surmounted by two female figures; in the center above the niche, two angels support the Cardinal's shield with an eagle and fleur-de-lis design. Unfortunately, the most original part of the fountain, which in its day roused endless wonder, is no longer extant: the middle section, made up of three statues of youths seated upon a huge vase out of which water poured into the basin below. In the fake rock used as the niche background and support for the vase were delicate branches made of bronze upon which birds were perched. Using the same principle as the water organ, the birds were made to chirp. Their song would stop only when an owl, again powered by a water device, appeared and started to hoot lugubriously.

By the Fountain of the Owl is the fountain usually known today as Proserpine. Bounded by a wall with niches and two lateral staircases leading to an upper level; it was originally known as the Fountain of

Fountain of the Dragons.